FPI proposal of Maharashtra

553. SHRI BALAWANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals for food processing projects from Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) the financial assistance released for these projects to the State under Government plan schemes; and

(d) the present status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project cases received from Maharashtra year-wise are as under:—

Year	No. of project cases
2001-02	53
2002-03	82
2003-04	81

(c) and (d) The amount of financial assistance released for the projects in Maharashtra during the last three years was Rs. 2181.44 lakh. There are certain deficiencies in some project proosals. Grant of financial assistance in such cases will depend on technical and financial viability of the projects.

Health problems due to use of Endosulfan in Kerala

554. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of villagers are suffering from serious health problems due to the use of Endosulfan in the plantation areas of Kasargod district in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the nature of diseases and the number of people affected so far;

(c) whether any compensation has been provided to the victims, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of steps taken by Government to protect the people in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) According to a study report of July 2002, submitted by National Institute of Occupational Health, Ahmedabad which carried out an epidemiological study in Padre village of Kasargod district of Kerala, a possible link was found between the higher prevalence of various ailments including Neuro behavioral disorders, congenital malformation in female subjects and abnormalities related to male re-productive system in the Padre Village with the aerial spray of Endosulfan. However, Dubey Committee set up by Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation, in its report of July, 2003, has concluded that there is no link established between use of Endosulfan in Plantation Corporation of Kerala (PCK) plantations and health problems reported in Padre Village of Kasargod Distt. of Kerala. The committee *inter alia* recommended to conduct comprehensive, well designed and detailed health and epidemiological study in entire cashew plantation area of Kerala to ascertain the incidence of diseases in Padre *vis-a-vis* Kerala State average and also in the event of incidence of unusual health problem to determine probable factors responsible for alleged health problems. It also recommended that use of Endosulfan be continued as per provisions of Insecticides Act 1968 but aerial spraying of Endosulfan may not be allowed in any situation including in PCK plantations to ensure full safety. Further, as per Government of Kerala, an expert committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.K. Sivaraman, Addl. Director of Health Services of Government of Kerala in its report submitted in August, 2003, has stated that it could not find any other reason other than Endosulfan spraying to explain the reported health hazard. The State Government temporarily banned aerial spraying of Endosulfan and declared pesticide holiday for five years. The Hon'ble High Court of Kerala in its order dated 12.8.2002 in O.P. No. 16300/01 has stayed the use of Endosulfan in the State. The State Government is providing free treatment to those, suffering from the reported problems and providing free medicine to the poor patients.